

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 XMB-02 AID-05 TRSE-00

COME-00 OMB-01 FRB-03 CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /091 W
----- 068109

R 251328Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2241

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2780

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAIR, SF

SUBJ: FORTHCOMING SAA PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 170434 (B) JOHANNESBURG 1042

1. ECON COUNSELOR PRATT AND SENIOR COMMERCIAL OFFICER STEINS CALLED ON CAPT. PIENAAR, CHIEF EXEC OFFICER SAA IN JOHANNESBURG ON JULY 25 REGARDING FORTHCOMING DECISION ON AIRCRAFT. PIENAAR TOLD US DECISION WHICH WOULD BE AT CABINET LEVEL WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY AUG 15 AT LATEST AND POSSIBLY WEEK EARLIER. WE CONVEYED TO HIM DIRECT AND KEEN USG INTEREST IN SALES AND ESPECIALLY ON PART OF EXIM AS EVIDENCED BY FINANCING AND EXPRESSED OUR DESIRE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE (REF A). PIENAAR ALSO INTERESTED BUT DID NOT PRESS US FOR DETAILS.

2. EVALUATION OF BIDS WAS TO CONTINUE, PIENAAR SAID, IN FACT MEETING WAS BEGINNING AS WE LEFT. CONGEN JOHANNESBURG AND EMB ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ALL THREE AIRCRAFT REPS AS WELL AS
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GENERAL ELECTRIC. STEINS HAD MET JULY 24 WITH MCDONNELL-

DOUGLAS REP, WHO CONFIRMED MOST OF WHAT REF (B) REPORTED.

3. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE HEARD AIRSPATIALE PRESIDENT COMING TO SOUTH AFRICA LAST WEEK JULY FOR SERIES HIGH LEVEL APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING MINISTERS, TO PRESS HIS CAUSE.

4. WE UNDERSTAND REASONS FOR WASHINGTON RELUCTANCE TO GIVE WAY ON SWEETENING FINANCIAL PACKAGE BEFORE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, BUT AT SAME TIME WE PROBABLY SHOULD BE PLACED, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN POSITION WHERE WE CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC IN DEALING WITH OUR AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS AND SAA ON WHAT WE MAY BE WILLING TO DO.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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06 JUL 2006

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